



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-ros!
~ Maya Angelou ~

Today is International Women's Day
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on their special day

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US 'fully capable' of defending against N. Korea threat

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it was "fully capable" of defending itself and its allies against any North Korean missile strike, after Pyongyang threatened to launch a nuclear attack.

The US military could deal with any such attack, US officials said, repeating earlier warnings that North Korea would gain nothing by provocations, while stressing they took its threats seriously.

"I can tell you that the United States is fully capable of defending against any North Korean ballistic missile attack," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

"Our recent success in returning to testing of the upgraded version of the so-called GBI or the CE-II missile will keep us on a good trajectory to improve our defense capability against limited ballistic missile threats."

Before the UN Security Council voted to impose tough new sanctions on North Korea over its February 12 nuclear test, Pyongyang earlier threatened a "pre-emptive" nuclear strike against the US.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Washington was taking the threats seriously, but "extreme rhetoric has not been unusual for this regime."

"You have to take a government at its word when it makes these kinds of threats, which is why we are making clear that we have not only full defensive capability for the United States but that we're prepared to defend our allies," she added.

Nuland also urged Py-

ongyang to give up a threat to scrap the 1953 armistice agreement that ended the Korean War.

North Korea announced on Tuesday that it would "completely declare invalid" the agreement from March 11 in response to tougher UN sanctions, theoretically removing the only barrier to a resumption of full hostilities.

Nuland refused to say whether that would leave the US technically at war again with North Korea.

"There are obviously legal procedures and ways that this would have to actually be implemented if the DPRK were looking to pull out of it," she said, referring to the North's official name.

She stressed, though, that "this armistice has been one of the underpinnings of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, so we would obviously urge that this not be the direction that we go."

Chavez to lie in state 7 more days, be embalmed

Caracas (AFP) - Late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez will be moved to a barracks where he will lie in state for longer than had been planned then be embalmed "like Lenin," interim leader Nicolas Maduro said yesterday. Chavez had been due to lie in state until a funeral today, but Maduro said millions wanted to see him, so he will be displayed for an extra week in the military base from where he spearheaded a failed coup in 1992.



Happy Women's Day

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Ensenanza Pa Empleo to offer courses in music



The government is of the opinion that if we are to bring about changes in the labor market, that it is important to do so through the Ensenanza Pa Empleo program. We can begin offering more possibilities through appropriate courses for different sectors. Hence, it is in this context that the EpE will be offering a new course in the music genre, especially for our musicians.

Aruba is known as a "Happy Island" in the Caribbean partly because of her Carnival music, typical dances and friendly people, among many other factors. A course in music will certainly be added value to our musicians who would like to know more about this subject.

Federico Martis, graduate of Berkley College of Music, winner of various titles in festivals on Aruba, and composer and music arranger, will offer his services to the EpE for this course in music. Federico has been contracted by EpE to offer a course designed to teach reading music, arranging, composing and all the necessary requirements for working in the field of music in the tourism industry.

The exact dates for the start of this music course will be announced soon. All interested persons can obtain more information and register at the EpE offices in the Engelandstraat 33 as of March 11th between 8:00 in the morning and 4:00 in the afternoon.

Rancho Foundation invites mini boat owners to join their regatta March 17

The western area of Oranjestad, before being incorporated in the town, was one of the oldest settlements on Aruba, called Rancho. The Foundation Rancho is a group dedicated to maintaining the particular culture and history of that area, which was dependent on the harbor and the sea.

Rancho was, until the mid 20th century, the place where islanders came to buy fish for the table. A community of fishermen, they laid their wares out before the public, and preserved them with the harvest from the natural salt ponds.



Organizing committee of Foundation Rancho



Mini boat building and racing is a part of Rancho Culture

Another favorite pastime of the Rancho Community was the construction and competition of miniature sailboats, a tradition steadfastly main-

tained. Mini-boat enthusiasts conduct their regattas in Aruba around national holidays, and travel to sister islands of Curacao and Bonaire

to compete.

The Rancho Foundation, headed by Clifford Rosa, announced they will be conducting a miniature sailboat regatta for Aruba's National Day 2013, on Sunday March 17. It will take place at in Oranjestad, with boats being launched from Governor's Beach, across from the residents, adjacent to Wilhelmina Park.

All miniature boat enthusiasts are invited to participate and compete for cash prizes and trophies. Depending on inscription, it is planned to conduct races in three divisions. The first Captain's Meeting and inscription event was last night, at the Arina Building (former Numismatic Museum) next to the main bus terminal in Oranjestad; address: Weststraat 15.

There will be another meeting and opportunity to inscribe on Thursday, March 14, also at this same building, which houses the remains of the Rancho Exhibit. Times are from 7:00 until 9:00 PM. Individual interested in participating or sponsoring the event can contact the foundation at e-mail stichting_rancho@live.com or call Clifford Rosa at tel: 562-8352.

Rosalie Klein

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Women's Day marked with all-female superjumbo crew

Air France today marked International Women's Day with a 100 percent female crew on board an Airbus 380, the world's largest commercial airplane, for a flight from Paris to Washington. "Air France brought together the largest exclusively female crew in its history: two pilots and 22 stewaresses for the flight," the company said. Air France has organised all-female crews to mark International Women's Day since 2006 but this year is the first time on an A380 superjumbo, which can carry up to 516 passengers.



Gobierno di Aruba



Pabien riba dia di hende muher

Awe, riba Dia Internacional di Hende Muhe nos ta celebra y rindi honor na tur hende muhe, cu dia den, dia afo cu amor a duna, ta duna y lo sigui duna di nan mes na nan famia y nan comunidad. Como wes'i lomba den nos hogarnan aki na Aruba, e hende muhe ta informa, tacura, participa, contribui, crea, encurasha, stima, hari y yora. E ta guia cu man duro, pero mas tanto suave e ta cria y produci generacionnan nobo, riba cual nos pida baranca lo sigui prospera.

Gabinete Mike Eman ta felicita tur hende muhe na mundo y particularmente na Aruba riba nan dia. Un dia special pa un ser special.

March 8th: The importance of International Women's Day



For more than 100 years International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide on March 8th. This day is not only a day of celebration but also a day to reflect on the past accomplishments of women, and struggles that women worldwide are still facing today.

The position of women has improved a lot during the last decades. Nowadays women are representing leadership positions in the community, in business and in politics. Women can combine work with raising a family, young girls can go to school and attend the university, and they can make decisions to determine their own future.

Although much has been accomplished, in present time women around the world are still experiencing difficulties like discrimination, abuse and depreciation. Women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men.

With more equality in rights, violence against women is something that cannot be tolerated in our modern time. According to the World Health Organization acts of violence against women aged 15-44 are causing more deaths and disabilities than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined.

On the International Women's Day we have to look back on one more year of violence against women and young girls, and ask ourselves what can be done to realize a

future without violence. Look around and think about the women you love in your life and family. What would you do to ensure that they also can live a life of happiness without fear of abuse, and enjoy an equal treatment?

My promise as Miss Aruba and as a woman is to continue the fight for women's rights, and the battle against violence against women. The battle for equality doesn't belong to women alone, but to everyone who cares about human rights. Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.

*Yours sincerely,
Miss Aruba 2012/2013
Larisa Leeuwe*

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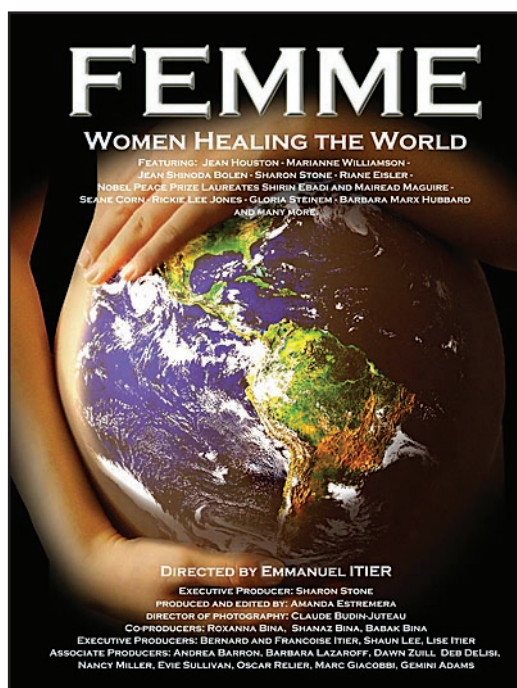
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International Filmmaker Emmanuel Itier on Aruba and the world premiere of "Femme-Women Healing the World"

Aruba's Minister of Economic & Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar is very proud to be hosting today's 2013 Women's Day Conference taking place at the Renaissance Center in Oranjestad. Aside from an impressive array of guest speakers, including Dr. Sue Morter, actress/humanitarian Maria Bello and HRH Princess Laurentien, a featured element of the day's events is the world premiere of the documentary, "Femme-Women Healing the World," by noted filmmaker Emmanuel Itier.

Emmanuel was kind enough to sit with THE MORNING NEWS to discuss his film and the strong feeling that compelled him to make it. He first came to Aruba as a film journalist for the Aruba International Film Festival 2010, then returned in 2011 to serve on the jury of the newly inaugurated Caribbean Showcase competition.



Through this, he connected with Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar, and was immensely impressed with her "intellect and philosophic outlook." She was invited to be one of his subjects for "Femme" and was thrilled in turn to be invited to have the world premiere of his final theatrical cut on Aruba for the Women's Day conference.

TMN: How did this film come about?

EI: I was filming my spiritual study, "The Invocation," and talking to world leaders and spiritual gurus around the world such as Deepak Chopra. I ended up interviewing a lot of women, because I was tired of all these other spiritual movies that were only talking to men, as if God was a guy. I realized during this that I was getting so much more from the women... It was eye-opening for me... I have found most men who have watched "Femme" have very much the same reaction, they find it a revelation.

The women I spoke to had real solutions that I found the men did not. Men are still ruling the world with the gun... It

was an awakening. I thought "Let's stop listening to men and listen to women!" That is how this movie was conceived. Let the women talk... they have solutions. Look at the countries where they have been elected to top office... you see them reducing poverty and hunger... making change, finding solutions.

TMN: So when the U.S. gets a woman president next election, we can expect change?

EI: When Hillary Clinton is elected in 2016, let us see the armed forces become Peace Corps... This is what we need, not to cut budgets, but to transform ourselves... and men have to transform, be in touch with their feminine side, their inner feelings. They have to stop talking and listen to people.

TMN: All of this is fine for the Western World, where women have made advancements, and managed to attain control over the lives to a great degree, but what about the Theocratic countries where women have no say, where they are considered the property of their fathers or husbands?

EI: While making this film we traveled widely, and saw women rebelling all around the world. In China, they are uniting and starting to kick-ass! In Indonesia, South Africa... women are fed up. The timing of this film is precipitous; women outnumber men anywhere on earth. From what I see, women are fed up and uniting and saying "Enough!"

I also believe that men are tired of dying. They are tired of death and poverty, and so are

becoming more willing to let the women lead. Even in the Middle East, you see more and more women daring to drive a car where it is forbidden, daring to run to be a minister in Qatar. I really am hopeful. It is slower there, but it is happening. People will see that in the film. We didn't shoot only in the Western World, we traveled all over.

In Israel, it was amazing. We met Palestinian and Israeli women getting together and having their "Women's Circle," plotting to spread peace. Why? Because they are tired from both sides of these idiot alpha male monkeys who are waving their guns and barking at each other. I think it is the nature of women, and the way they are raised, to seek peaceful solutions.

TMN: The Greek drama "Lysistrata" is the story of one woman convincing all the women in a town to withhold sex from their husbands until they stop the war. The idea of women being the peace bringers and men the war mongers has been around for millennium, no?

EI: Yes, it is not new. There have been a number of films about it, but most made by women. I think this does make "Femme" stand out, that is by a man. Believe me, I am French, and your typical idiot, alpha macho monkey, which makes me the perfect creature to make that movie. It con-



Emmanuel Itier enjoys the authentic Aruban Experience

verted me... I have become the most feminist of all the macho ***holes on this earth. I had to; after listening to all these wonderful women, and what they had to say... it was a revelation. It transformed me, and made me a better man.

Emmanuel is happily married to a very patient woman who understands his need to travel and produce these films. They have two very young children, a son and a daughter, and are very conscious of the world they will inherit. He recommends all men watch "Femme-Women Healing the World", or women give it to their men as a gift and watch it together. "I am sure it will kindle the understanding needed in all relationships, and as well as the passion. They should watch it on Valentine's Day and that lover's holiday will have a perfect ending, guaranteed."

Rosalie Klein

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Mediator assisted meeting held between AAA and STA regarding Shift Change;

Parties didn't agree on 2 issues

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) held a meeting with labor union STA in the presence of mediator of Aruba Mr. Anselmo Pontilius regarding the procedures for Shift Change.

It was a good meeting, and at the end only 2 issues were still pending. AAA as employer defines the shift schedules. To accommodate and facilitate the shift workers AAA allows under certain conditions that the employees can change shifts amongst each other. These conditions were already introduced in 2002. AAA has recently evaluated the practice of shift changing and the 2002 conditions and last week decided to broaden the rules. According to STA, its members do not agree with 2 of the new conditions: (1) It's only allowed to change 3 shifts per month instead of unlimited shift changes and (2) it's allowed to change shifts with another shift and not with an off day.

These 2 issues are still pending for discussion in the next meeting that will be held next week Tuesday March 12, 2013.

Before this meeting, STA will reunite with its members to discuss what was agreed on during the meeting and also come up with suggestions to discuss with AAA in next week's meeting.

AAA is open to re-evaluate issue #1 which regards the amount of shift changes allowed, but for issue #2 there isn't much space for discussion. It's the management's opinion that shift changing is for the changing of shifts, that means that you

change one shift for another one. In practice of the last years, employees have changed shifts with a colleague without the colleague taking over the shift. This results in an unwanted situation. Regarding the limitation of the amount of shift changes permitted per month, - 3 according to the new rule – fact is that in practice there are a very small amount of employees that change more than 3 shifts per month, therefore AAA doesn't think that this should be a problem for shift workers. AAA will remain pending for the suggestions by STA in the next meeting.



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Aruba Lions Club celebrates 65 years



Just recently, Aruba Lions Club celebrated their 65th anniversary! As part of their celebration they were honored with a visit from Aruba's Governor. They exchanged ideas with the Governor on different topics regarding the Club as it looks ahead to the coming years. The Governor was presented with a commemorative 65-year pin as honorary member of the Aruba Lions Club.

The Aruba Lions Club was

represented by club president Randolph Vrolijk, secretary Jaime Lacle and chairman of the 65 year celebration committee, Orlando Quandt.

As part of the occasion they also enjoyed a sumptuous dinner where various other service clubs on Aruba were present. Several club members were honored for their years of faithful membership, their dedicated contribution and support to the Aruba Lions Club and to the

Aruban community.

Three outstanding local citizens received the esteemed "Melvin Jones Award," which happens to be the most prestigious recognition that a member can receive from Lions Club International. This recognition is given in honor of the founder of Lions Club International, Melvin Jones. The Club was founded by Jones back in Chicago in 1917.

Those receiving this award were: Hubert Lio Booi for his

dedication and contribution to history, culture and music of Aruba and also as co-author of Aruba's National Anthem – the Aruba Dushi Tera.

Next person to receive this prestigious award was Sister Graciela Kock for her dedication and contribution and the formation of children to a religious vocation.

Francis Leo was a third recipient of the award. Leo received this recognition for his dedication and exceptional contribution as a member of the Aruba Lions Club.

Other members to receive their recognition were: Ebby Arends, Randall Croes, Kenneth Luidens, Urbano Maduro, Ronny Nicolaas and George Simon.

Important to mention that these awards were presented in the presence of members of the other visiting club representatives and the Lions Zone chairman, Clifton Walle, as well as representatives of the Bonaire and Curacao Lions Clubs.



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International news

Holder clarifies president's drone authority

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Attorney General Eric Holder made clear yesterday that a US president does not have the power to order a drone strike against a "non combatant" American inside the United States.

Holder's clarifying comment came in a short letter to Senator Rand Paul, who mounted a 13-hour, non-stop filibuster in the Senate demanding answers from the administration on the scope of drone policy.

"Does the President have the authority to use a weaponized drone to kill an American not engaged in combat on American soil?" Holder asked in a letter to Paul. "The answer to that question is 'no.'"

Paul, an idiosyncratic, libertarian Republican, demanded a clarification from the administration to ensure "they are not going to kill non-combatants in America" bringing a new US perspective to a row raging over the use of US drones against terror suspects abroad.

On Tuesday, Holder had said that, while Obama had "no intention" of ordering drone strikes on US soil, the scenario could be possible if there was an "extraordinary circumstance" such as an attack similar to 9/11.

Paul said after he received the letter that it showed his battle was worthwhile.

"The reason this is important is often drones are used overseas against people who are not actively engaged in combat," he told reporters. "I'm not saying they're not bad people or they might have previously been in combat, but the thing is, we have to have a higher standard in our country."

Paul's action won praise from some Republicans and those conservatives who see him as the heir to his father Ron Paul's quirky coalition in presidential campaigns.

But critics questioned whether he was truly engaging on a point of principle and worried that he was scaremongering, since no US official had seriously mooted the use of drones against US citizens on home soil.

"The president has not and would not use drone strikes against American citizens on American soil," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

"Those legal authorities that exist to use lethal force are bound by and constrained by the law and the Constitution. The issue here isn't the technology. The method does not change the law. The president's sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution, and he is bound by the law."

"Whether the lethal force in question is a drone strike or a gunshot, the law and the Constitution apply in the same way."

UN hits N. Korea with new sanctions amid attack threat



PYONGYANG, Democratic People's Republic of Korea -- This video grab taken from North Korean TV shows a mass rally by citizens and soldiers in Pyongyang yesterday.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The UN Security Council yesterday slammed tough new sanctions on North Korea amid escalating tensions as the isolated regime threatened a preemptive nuclear strike against the United States.

Washington said it was "fully capable" of defending itself against any North Korean attack as international powers rallied behind the fourth round of UN punishment of Pyongyang.

After an accord between US and Chinese negotiators, the 15-member Security Council unanimously added new names to the UN sanctions blacklist and tightened restrictions on North Korea's financial dealings, notably its suspect "bulk cash" transfers.

Ahead of the meeting, North Korea bitterly condemned South Korean-US military exercises and said its army would "exercise the right to a pre-emptive nuclear attack to destroy the strongholds of the aggressors."

North Korea now faces one of the toughest UN sanctions

regimes ever imposed after nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and on February 12, as well as a long-range rocket launch in December.

The Security Council's Resolution 2094 threatened "further significant measures" if the North stages a new nuclear test or rocket launch.

The new sanctions will "bite hard," said US ambassador Susan Rice. "They increase North Korea's isolation and raise the cost to North Korea's leaders of defying the international community."

China wants "full implementation" of the resolution, said its UN envoy Li Baodong, while stressing that efforts must be made to bring North Korea back to negotiations and to defuse tensions.

Russia's UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin also called for "cool heads" to bring North Korea back to six-nation talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons drive.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, a former South Korean foreign minister, said the resolution sent an "unequivo-

cal message" to North Korea that "the international community will not tolerate its pursuit of nuclear weapons."

The resolution expressed "gravest concern" over the February 12 test and adds three new individuals, a government science academy and trading company to the UN blacklist for a travel ban and assets freeze.

The resolution also called for "enhanced vigilance" over North Korean diplomats. US officials suspect the North's diplomats have been carrying suitcases of cash to get around financial sanctions.

It said a ban on financial transactions linked to the North's weapons programs must include "bulk cash" transfers.

Earlier resolutions gave states the right to inspect cargo suspected to contain weapons material. Those inspections will become mandatory.

The Security Council had also banned exports of luxury goods but this resolution for the first time specifically named jewelry, yachts, and luxury and racing cars as items that must be banned.



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International News

Cuba gives Chavez hero's send-off



HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba's leaders gave Hugo Chavez a send-off fit for one of their own Thursday, with huge crowds turning out to pay homage to the late Venezuelan leader in the Revolution Plaza in Havana and Santiago.

Cuban President Raul Castro, dressed in military uniform, placed a wreath before an image of Chavez.

Cuba's new number two, Miguel Diaz-Canel, led another mass turnout at Havana's vast Revolution Plaza, the iconic public square from which revolutionary leader Fidel Castro used to address the Cuban people.

Other events memorializing Chavez were to take place in plazas across Cuba an honor typically reserved for only historic leaders of the Cuban revolution.

In this case, tradition was set aside to remember a crucial oil-rich ally whose largesse has kept the communist-ruled island economically afloat during his 14-year-rule.

During his illness, Chavez was treated almost exclusively in Cuba where his cancer was first detected in June 2011.

After his death in Caracas, the Cuban government declared that "Chavez is also Cuban" and was hailed as a "true son" of Fidel Castro.

Cuban flags were lowered to half mast over the colonial fortresses of Morro and La Cabana overlooking Havana's harbor, and the government ordered three days of mourning.

Today, when Chavez is buried in Venezuela, his passing will be marked here with a 21-gun salute.

Excommunicated female priest detained over Vatican protest

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - An excommunicated female priest decked out in her liturgical robes was detained by Italian police for demonstrating at the Vatican on Thursday, where she called on the Catholic Church to rethink its policy on

ordaining women.

Unfurling a red and white banner reading "Women Priests are Here", Janice Sevre-Duszynska said she wanted to draw attention to the lack of a voice for women as cardinals gather at the Vatican to choose former pope Benedict XVI's successor.

"As the cardinals meet for their conclave to elect the new pope, women are being ordained around the world!" said Sevre-Duszynska, a member of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests, decked out in an ivory, hand-made alb and green stole.

"There are already 150 female priests in the world. The people are ready for change," she said in a quick interview with AFP in front of St. Peter's Basilica, before being taken away in a police car.

Sevre-Duszynska, an American who lives in Kentucky, was ordained by a female bishop and has been leading mass for four years -- though she and all other female priests have been excommunicated by the Vatican.

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Hillary Clinton tops 2016 US presidential poll

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The 2016 US election might be a full three and a half years away, but that is not stopping pollsters from asking voters who has the early presidential edge. And the advantage goes to Hillary Clinton.

The recently retired secretary of state and former first lady would handily defeat any of three leading potential Republican candidates, including New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the Quinnipiac University poll said Thursday.

The blunt-talking Christie came in second in the poll, well ahead of fellow Republicans Marco Rubio, a first-term senator from Florida, and congressman Paul Ryan, who was Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012.

"Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton would start a 2016 presidential campaign

with enormous advantages," said the polling institute's assistant director Peter Brown.

"She obviously is by far the best known, and her more than 20 years in the public spotlight allows her to create a very favorable impression on the American people."

Clinton topped Christie 45-37 percent in the poll, bested Ryan 50-38 and trounced Rubio, seen as a Republican rising star, 50-34 percent.

But Christie, who was recently snubbed when he was not invited to the upcoming Conservative Political Action Conference, outperformed the other two Democrats in the poll, edging Vice President Joe Biden 43-40 percent and comfortably topping New York Governor Andrew Cuomo 45-28.

"Although some Republicans don't think... Christie is conservative enough for their taste, he

runs best of the three Republicans tested," Brown said.

Clinton, 65, is the early frontrunner in part because of her ability to attract independent voters.

Quinnipiac surveyed 1,944 registered voters by fixed and mobile telephone, and its poll has a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points.

Early last month the same institute released a poll showing Clinton was the most popular political figure in America, well ahead of President Barack Obama, who beat her in the 2008 Democratic primary.

Clinton, a former US senator, has said she has no plans to re-enter politics and run for the White House in 2016, saying she wants to rest after two decades in the public spotlight, catch up on reading and spend time with her family.

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Health & Living

Menstruation the forgotten development issue: *UN body*

GENEVA (AFP) - Aid agencies and governments must tackle the taboos surrounding menstruation as sidelining the issue undermines the quality of life of women and girls, chiefly in poor nations, a UN body said.

Poor education about menstruation, lack of access to sanitary napkins and painkillers for cramps, and inadequate washing and disposal facilities have a far-reaching impact on schooling, work and health, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council said.

"From the moment a girl has her first period, she then menstruates for almost 3,500 days throughout her lifetime, every month," programme manager Archana Patkar said.

"This is the unspoken, silent hygiene and sanitation issue," she told reporters.

A major concern is that a lack of sanitary napkins and washing facilities means girls

miss school because of their bleeding, she said.

"This has a huge fall-out, and many implications. Not only for schools, but also in the workplace, in markets," she said.

"This is an issue that cuts across health, education, livelihoods and all development outcomes. It's centre-stage."

The Council pointed to research in India showing that only 12 percent of girls and women have access to and use sanitary napkins, that many have a poor understanding of menstrual hygiene, and that 23 percent of girls drop out of school after puberty.

"There are two billion women worldwide in the menstruating age group, between 12 and 50. At any given moment, 340 million women and girls are menstruating. So the scale of this is pretty huge," Patkar said.

In developed countries

women and girls have better access to products and materials, and facilities were also more widely available, she said.

She criticised beliefs in some societies -- notably male-dominated ones -- that menstruation is "impure".

"Menstruation is a biological phenomenon which is responsible for future generations. We wouldn't be here without it. So it's really strange that we have all this silence, shame, secrecy and taboos around it," she said.

"This has huge psychosocial implications for a young girl which carry right through to old age. It's part of the disempowerment and disenfranchisement of women and girls."

The Council groups UN agencies, governments and professionals, and focuses on improving the lot of the 2.5 billion people worldwide without access to basic sanitation.

Tips for Eating Healthy When Eating out

- In a restaurant, start your meal with a salad packed with veggies, to help control hunger and feel satisfied sooner.
- Choose main dishes that include vegetables, such as stir fries, kebobs, or pasta with a tomato sauce.
- Order steamed, grilled, or broiled dishes instead of those that are fried or sautéed.
- Choose a small" or "medium" portion. This includes main dishes, side dishes, and beverages.
- Order an item from the menu instead heading for the "all you-can-eat" buffet.
- If main portions at a restaurant are larger than you want, try one of these strategies to keep from overeating:
 - *Order an appetizer-sized portion or a side dish instead of an entrée.
 - *Share a main dish with a friend.
 - *If you can chill the extra food right away, take leftovers home in a "doggy bag."
 - *When your food is delivered, set aside or pack half of it to go immediately.
 - *Resign from the "clean your plate club" - when you've eaten enough, leave the rest.
 - To keep your meal moderate in calories, fat, and sugars:
 - *Ask for salad dressing to be served "on the side" so you can add only as much as you want.
 - *Order foods that do not have creamy sauces or gravies and add little or no butter to your food.
 - *Choose fruits for dessert most often.



A Woman's Beauty

The beauty of a woman
Is not in the clothes she wears,
The figure that she carries,
Or the way she combs her hair.

The beauty of a woman must be seen from in
her eyes,
Because that is the doorway to her heart,
The place where love resides.
The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole
But true beauty in a woman is reflected in
her soul.

It is the caring that she lovingly gives,
The passion that she shows,
And the beauty of a woman
With passing years only grows!

Teresa Mahieu

Scientists use brain electrodes to treat anorexia

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists said they had, for the first time, helped women with severe anorexia through electrodes implanted into their brains.

The technique is in an experimental phase and only some patients had improved, but the treatment showed promise, they wrote in the Lancet medical journal.

After nine months, three of the six patients in the trial had put on weight and appeared to be in a better state of mind, said the team of specialists from the United States and Canada.

For the three, "this was the longest period of sustained increase in BMI (Body Mass Index -- the ratio between a person's height and weight) since the onset of their illness," wrote the authors.

Furthermore, the technique known as deep brain stimulation (DBS) "was associated with improvements in mood, anxiety... and anorexia nervosa-related obsessions and

compulsions in four patients and with improvements in quality of life in three patients after six months of stimulation," said the paper.

Three patients, however, showed no weight improvement and the scientists pointed out that the procedure was associated with "several adverse events" -- including one woman suffering a seizure.

Other effects included panic attacks, nausea and pain.

Anorexia nervosa is usually a chronic illness that affects nearly one percent of people. It is typically diagnosed in young women aged 15-19.

It has one of the highest mortality rates of a psychiatric disorder -- between six and 11 percent -- and is among the most difficult to treat, the authors wrote.

The trial involved implanting electrodes into the part of the brain that regulates emotion so as to moderate the activity of dysfunctional brain circuits.

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Sci-Tech

Personality traits probed in high-res brain scans

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US researchers published incredibly detailed images of the human brain as part of an international project aimed at uncovering how brain architecture influences personality.

The five-year "Human Connectome Project" or HCP -- being conducted at 10 research centers in the US and Europe -- will use advanced brain imaging technology to collect vast amounts of data on healthy adults and make it freely available to researchers worldwide.

It will enable "the scientific community to immediately begin exploring relationships between brain circuits and individual behavior,".

Yesterday's initial release includes scans of 68 healthy adults, along with behavioral information, including individual differences in personality, cognitive capabilities, emotional characteristics and perceptual function.

The extremely high-resolution brain scans were achieved using two techniques of magnetic resonance imaging. Each have limitations, the researchers said, but taken together, they should give a more complete picture of what goes on in the brain.

The researchers also performed scans of the test subjects while performing specific tasks.

The resulting dataset is massive -- comprising two terabytes (2 trillion bytes) of computer memory, or the equivalent of more than 400 DVDs.

Over the next five years, the researchers hope to release similar information on a total of 1,200 individuals, including siblings and twins, which will help determine which brain circuitry traits might be inherited.

Germany eyes new Internet industrial revolution

HANOVER (AFP) - Known throughout the world for quality cars and industrial giants, Germany is now seeking to position itself for the coming revolution, "industry 4.0", powered by Internet.

"The Internet has become an integral part of industry," said Chancellor Angela Merkel as she inaugurated the CeBIT, the world's biggest high-tech fair here in the northern city of Hanover.

And German firms at the CeBIT show were scrambling not to get left behind by the global competition when it

comes to making industrial processes smarter and more interconnected.

The German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) showcased its "smart factory", showing how industrial processes can be made more efficient when connected by Internet.

As an example, the DFKI demonstrated how a plastic badge installed with a tiny RFID identification chip instructs the machines involved in its production.

The chip can tell other machines what to engrave on its

surface, what colour to paint it or whether to stick on instructions in French, German or Portuguese.

The idea of the project, which should be rolled out on an industrial scale in Germany next year, is to allow a production process that is both large-scale and highly specific.

Nearby, a DFKI staff member demonstrates a pair of large black glasses that look like they have been taken straight from a sci-fi film.

He turns towards a machine and begins to repair it with the aid of holographic instructions that are beamed into his glasses.

"The idea is to make non-specialists capable of repairing" the machines, without having to wait for an expert engineer, he explained.

Beyond individual industrial processes, big German firms are also looking at ways to link up whole factories via

the Internet and even get separate plants to communicate with each other.

The idea of "networking" factories is "the motor for productivity gains in the coming years," Jim Hagemann Snabe, one of the bosses of German software SAP, told the CeBIT fair.

The new revolution is going to require the Internet to become much more powerful. According to figures published by US firm Cisco, more than 50 billion objects will be connected to each other via the Internet by 2020.

And Germany is already trying to make sure that its huge network of small and medium-sized businesses, the backbone of Europe's strongest economy, will not be left behind in the global race to make industry smarter.

Three industry lobby groups, in telecommunications, machine-tools and electronics, have clubbed together to launch from April a joint information platform, saying it was of "enormous importance" for the country's factories.

Go Green at Work

- 1- Buy remanufactured ink and toner cartridges.
 - 2-Buy high Post-Consumer Recycled Content (PCR) paper.
 - 3- Use power strips to turn technology off when not in use.
 - 4-Recycle your office paper.
 - 5- Donate unwanted products and furniture.
 - 6-Turn lights off when leaving your office or conference room.
 - 7- Recycle other materials in your office.
- Remember, it all starts with you. Please spread the word. -



SAN DIEGO (AFP) -: Butterfly keepers carefully examined the newest butterfly pupae, which arrived at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. This first shipment came from Costa Rica carrying somewhere between 500 and 700 butterfly pupae. Animal care staff will sort the pupae in a humidity -- and climate-controlled room making sure the pupae are carefully sorted and counted. There, the pupae will emerge from their chrysalis and then be placed into an aviary at the Safari Park for Butterfly Jungle, a yearly event at the Safari Park. Butterfly Jungle takes place March 16 through April 7. Guests are completely immersed by thousands of butterflies as they walk through the Safari Park's Hidden Jungle aviary. The 30 species of butterflies highlighted this year will hail from Africa, Asia and Central and South America and include the zebra longwing, orange-barred tiger and Grecian shoemaker. Old favorites such as the monarch, giant swallowtail and blue morpho also will be charming guests.



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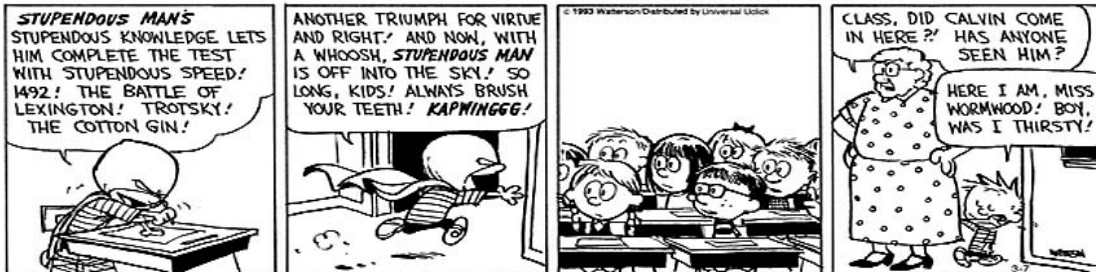
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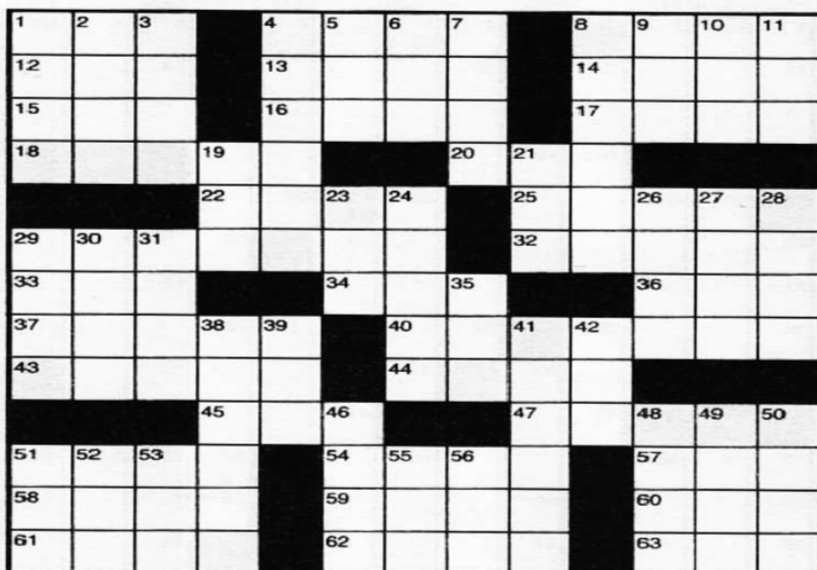
1. Ocean vessel inits.
4. Melville captain
8. Between
12. ___ the line
13. Auctioneer's word
14. Birth certificate decision
15. "___ You Experienced?"
16. Russo of "Big Trouble"
17. Cable option
18. Therefore
20. Actress Grier
22. Large ice mass
25. Actress Ladd
29. Former state of Germany
32. Long-time Chicago mayor
33. Novelist Fleming
34. Gp.
36. "Fiddle-de-___!"
37. Actor Brad and family
40. Shoot at without pause
43. Porky's nose
44. Scent
45. Personal trainer's workplace
47. Spa wrap
51. Zesty flavor

54. Parisian pronoun
57. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
58. Ivy, e.g.
59. Grime
60. British partnership abbr.
61. Snow vehicle
62. Hoagies' kin
63. Light bulb inventor's monogram

DOWN

1. 2002 Olympics site
2. Furious
3. Spotted
4. Consents
5. Gardening implement
6. Sothern of

- "Maisie"
7. Horn sound
8. Lack-of-pep cause
9. Barker and Kettle
10. Naughty child
11. Bear's hideaway
19. "Survivor" network
21. Build an extension
23. "___ Rita"
24. Actress Greta
26. Hawkeye's portrayer
27. Poetic "never"
28. Eagle-___
29. Spots on dominoes
30. Drizzle
31. Golden Rule word
35. "In ___ We Trust"
38. Hauled
39. Pig's pad
41. Motor hotels
42. Male sibling, slangily
46. Difficult situation
48. Mr. Disney
49. "Tell Mama" singer James
50. Metallic vein
51. Boob-tubes
52. Have woes
53. Wind dir.
55. Comic Costello
56. Ad ___ (improvise)



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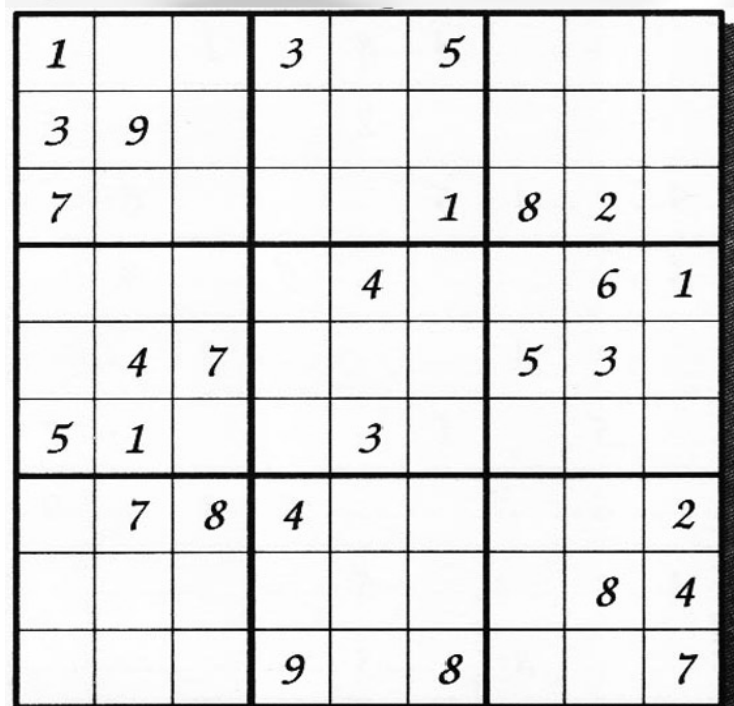
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Sudoku



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2	1	9	5	7	8	4	6	3
8	7	2	9	1	5	4	6	3
6	3	5	2	1	8	7	4	9
1	9	4	6	7	5	3	2	8
5	2	8	1	6	9	7	3	4
3	4	1	7	8	2	9	6	5
9	6	7	5	4	3	2	8	1

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FINANCE

Brazil Congress quashes veto of oil royalty share-out

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil's Congress revived legislation that gives a greater share of the country's oil royalties to non-oil producing states, overriding a veto by President Dilma Rousseff.

The decision, announced to AFP by the general secretariat of the Congress yesterday, means royalties in existing and future contracts will be shared more evenly between oil-producing and non-producing states.

Last November, Rousseff vetoed an article in the law that provided for a more equitable sharing of royalties among the 26 states and the federal district of Brasilia.

She questioned the fact that contracts signed before the bill

was approved would be affected retroactively.

The measure would cut the federal government's share from 30 to 20 percent, and that of producing states from 26 to 20 percent. And non-producing states in turn would see their oil royalty revenues rise from seven to 21 percent by 2013, and up to 27 percent by 2020.

But Congress overrode the presidential objections in a session that began late Wednesday, with the outcome disclosed yesterday.

Three of Brazil's 26 states - Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Espirito Santo, produce most of the country's oil. They had put intense pressure on Rousseff to veto the new share-out plan.

ECB trims 2013, 2014 eurozone growth forecasts

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank yesterday trimmed its growth forecasts for this year and next as the impact of the bloc's debt crisis continued to be felt across the 17-country eurozone.

The ECB said it expected the eurozone economy to contract by 0.5 percent in 2013 before recovering to grow by 1.0 percent next year. It had previously forecast -0.3 percent and

1.2 percent respectively.

The bank also slightly pared its inflation forecasts for 2014, leaving its estimate for this year unchanged at 1.6 percent.

It said it expected average inflation of 1.3 percent in 2014 compared to 1.4 percent estimated in December.

The ECB's medium-term inflation target is below but close to 2.0 percent.

Global bank group warns over too much liquidity

WASHINGTON (AFP) - An influential group of leading world banks warned yesterday that central banks are pumping out too much easy money and markets risk becoming dangerously addicted to ultra-low interest rates.

The Institute of International Finance, which groups 450 banks, said that if central banks continue to flood money into the global economy, then any future bid to get it under control could itself destabilize the financial system.

"Much of the recovery so far has... been heavily reliant on 'easy money' conditions fostered by central banks," the IIF said in a statement.

"These conditions -- quantitative easing, very low interest rates -- cannot last forever, but the risk is that financial markets have become addicted to them," it warned.

"The longer central bank liquidity is relied on to hold things together, the more excesses and distortions are being accumulated in the financial system. An eventual unwinding of these excesses will become a destabilizing risk event."

The IIF said the US Dow

Jones Industrial Average's had hit an all-time high this week more because of relaxed international monetary conditions than thanks to any recovery in the real economy.

The group also said that major central banks are doing "whatever it takes" to stabilize markets and boost growth because necessary reforms are being stalled by political deadlock in many countries.

"The critical problem resulting from prolonged political stalemate is that essential policy reforms could be delayed -- with the consequence that wider investor confidence may be undermined," the banks said.

IIF deputy managing director Hung Tran said that central bankers should be aware of "the unintended consequences of their actions" and make clear how they expect to adjust monetary policy over the long term.

"This would help lessen the risk of large swings in financial markets," he said.

The warning came hours after European Central Bank policy makers discussed a cut in its benchmark interest rate to address the weak eurozone economy. They ultimately de-

cided to keep the rate on hold, as did the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England at their policy meetings Thursday.

All three continued to pursue strongly expansionary monetary policies.

US Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke last week downplayed worries that liquidity was fueling fresh bubbles in financial markets. But he added that the Fed -- which has held its key rate near zero since the end of 2008 -- was monitoring the situation.

The IIF pointed to political divides hurting economic policy reforms in Italy, the United States and elsewhere.

It applauded Japan's efforts to boost its economy with increased easing, but added a warning.

"Sentiment has clearly improved. But Japan's turn towards aggressive monetary easing needs explicit international policy coordination, particularly in commitment not to target exchange rates," the IIF said.

"Otherwise the risk is obvious, an inadvertent stumble into 'currency wars', acknowledged or otherwise.

US weekly jobless claims fall

WASHINGTON (AFP) - New claims for US unemployment benefits fell last week to 340,000, suggesting continued modest strength in the jobs market on the eve of steep federal spending cuts, data

showed yesterday.

Claims, an indicator of the pace of layoffs across the country, fell by 7,000 in the week to March 2, holding below the four-week rolling average, according to the Department of Labor.

It was the last week of reporting before the start of the "sequester" spending cuts, officially launched on March 1:

\$85 billion in broad-based budget reductions required over the next seven months which mean furloughs for government workers, cutbacks in temporary hiring and cuts to government contracting.

The weekly figure pulled the four-week moving average of claims down to 348,750, compared with the 367,500 average of a year earlier.



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Canada	CAD	1.71	1.73	1.75
Britain	GBP	2.61	2.66	2.72
Switzerland	CHF	187.94	188.66	189.46
Netherlands	EUR	229.62	231.71	234.04
Sweden	SEK	26.96	27.68	28.48
Denmark	DKK	30.12	30.84	31.64
Norway	NOK	30.28	31.00	31.80
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STRAW ELLENS
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Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge featuring live music this Sunday



--Aruba's newest lounge, Brickell Bay Sand Beach, in Palm Beach, created quite a stir with its recent opening, revealing a chic, unique environment that has strongly attracted island fashionistas as a relaxed, elegant place to while away the evening hours.

The new eatery/nightclub has live music twice weekly, and this Sunday will feature on of the island's most popular and dynamic entertainers of the last decade, Marisela and the Aquarius Band. She is back on Aruba for a limited engagement and will be appearing every Sunday through January at Brickell Bay Sand Beach Lounge.

Marisela will be heating up Palm Beach for a very cool night each weekend beginning this Sunday, January

6, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is a performer known for "bringing down the house," so don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy some great entertainment and discover Aruba's most stylish new nightspot. Every Wednesday, The Ryders will be rockin' the house from 9:00 PM until midnight. Enjoy two for one drinks on all brands, even premium, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM every Monday through Thursday, and from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, with an additional late night "Happy Hour" on the weekends from 10:00 to 11:00 PM.

Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge is located directly across the street from the South Beach Center. If you are wondering what is new and hip on Aruba, this is it!

International Women's Day

Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them, They think I'm telling lies.
I say, It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips, The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman **Phenomenally.**
Phenomenal woman, That's me.

I walk into a room, Just as cool as you please,
And to a man, The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me, A hive of honey bees.
I say, It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth, The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman **Phenomenally.**
Phenomenal woman, That's me.

Men themselves have wondered, What they see in me.
They try so much, But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them, They say they still can't see.
I say, It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile, The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.

I'm a woman **Phenomenally.**
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand, Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about, Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing, It ought to make you proud.
I say,

It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair, the palm of my hand,
The need of my care,

'Cause I'm a woman **Phenomenally.**
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Maya Angelou

Why dedicate a day exclusively to the celebration of the world's women?

The United Nations General Assembly, composed of delegates from every Member State, celebrates International Women's Day to recognize that peace and social progress require the active participation and equality of women, and to acknowledge the contribution of women to international peace and security. For the women of the world, the Day is an occasion to review how far they have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. However, nowhere in the world can women claim to have all the same rights and opportunities as men. The majority of the world's 1.3 billion absolute poor are women. On average, women receive between 30 and 40 per cent less pay than men earn for the same work. And everywhere, women continue to be victims of violence, with rape and domestic violence listed as significant causes of disability and death among women of reproductive age worldwide.



5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Sport

Football: 'No plan B' if Maracana not ready, say FIFA

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke admitted on Thursday that there was "no plan B" if Rio's emblematic Maracana stadium was not ready for June's Confederations Cup in Brazil.

The famous old stadium in Rio de Janeiro, that hosted the final match of the 1950 World Cup, has been undergoing a makeover.

There had been concern that reconstruction was falling behind schedule, particularly following heavy rains in the city on Tuesday night that left parts of the site flooded and forced a planned FIFA inspection on Wednesday to be shelved.

Valcke is due to meet with the local organising committee, the Rio government and constructors Odebrecht today to discuss the issue.

"It will be a meeting to discuss every part of the stadium ... so we can ensure ourselves that there is a clear understanding of what will be ready on April 27," said Valcke, before adding: "or if something will be missing."

The FIFA chief also added that "there is no plan B" in case the Maracana or any of the other five venues for the Confederations Cup are not ready.

"We've already sold tickets

for the six stadiums -- there is no possibility to change this, there is no plan B," he told reporters.

O Globo newspaper published photos on Thursday showing that there was no grass on the Maracana pitch, which was flooded with water, thousands of seats had yet to be fitted in the stands and only a part of the roof had been built.

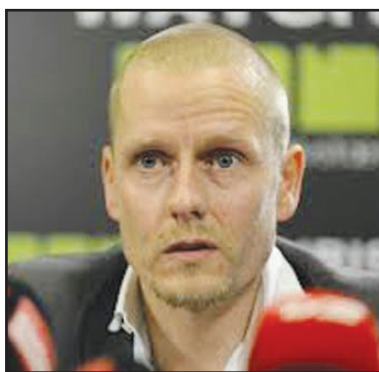
The local government claims that 87 percent of the rebuilding work has been completed and the stadium remains on course to host matches not just at the Confederations Cup in June but also the World Cup in 2014.

"We're holding to April 27, that's always been the date for us and nothing has changed said Valcke.

The official presentation of the Maracana to FIFA was supposed to take place in February but had to be postponed until May 24, some three weeks before the start of the Confederations Cup on June 15 when Brazil play Asian champions Japan in Brasilia.

The first match in the Maracana is due to be a friendly between Brazil and England on June 2 while the first Confederations Cup match to be held there will be on June 16 between Mexico and Italy.

Cycling: Rasmussen claims 5.6 mln euros from Rabobank



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Danish rider Michael Rasmussen is claiming unfair dismissal and 5.6 million euros (\$7.3 million, £4.8 million) in damages and interest from his former team Rabobank after he was sacked in 2007, a report said on Thursday.

The Dutch news agency ANA said the cyclist told a tribunal in the Netherlands that team managers were "aware of doping practices" and as a result concluded that his dismissal was not justified.

At a previous court hearing in 2008, Rasmussen was awarded 665,000 euros in unpaid wages but he appealed the

ruling, claiming that the sum was insufficient.

Rasmussen was thrown off the 2007 Tour de France when he was wearing the leader's yellow jersey for having lied about his whereabouts before the race in order to escape out-of-competition dope tests.

He said he was in Mexico while in fact he was in France and Italy.

The Dane later admitted that he lied to the International Cycling Union (UCI) governing body, which oversees drug testing, and that a number of his team-mates were aware of his real whereabouts. He was given a two-year ban.

At a tribunal in Arnhem on Thursday, a former doctor for Rabobank backed up Rasmussen's claims, ANA reported.

The 38-year-old, who twice won the polka dot jersey for best climber in 2005 and 2006, recently announced an end to his career and admitted that he used banned performance-enhancing drugs over 12 years.

Baseball: Yankee reliever Rivera to retire this year

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Yankees ace relief pitcher Mariano Rivera, Major League Baseball's all-time saves leader, plans to announce this weekend that this will be his last season, the New York Post reported Thursday.

The newspaper said that Rivera will announce his plan to retire at the end of the Yankees' 2013 campaign on Saturday, when he makes his pre-season exhibition debut on the mound.

The 43-year-old Panamanian right-hander, who have 608 career major league saves, had hinted at retirement last year but tore his right knee anterior

cruciate ligament last May and missed the remainder of the season.

Rivera, a 12-time All-Star reliever, had vowed to return, saying he did not want to end his career with an injury.

Rivera has been spectacular for the Yankees in the playoffs, helping the team win five World Series titles with 42 saves and a 0.70 earned-run average over 141 innings in 96 playoff games.

Last season, he appeared only nine times, managing just five saves with a 1-1 record and a 2.16 earned run average. He had no fewer than 28 saves in any of his 15 prior seasons

Poland loses hope of finding missing Himalayan climbers

WARSAW (AFP) - Two Polish climbers who went missing after making the first ever winter ascent of one of the world's highest mountains are unlikely to be found, the expedition leader said Thursday.

Tomasz Kowalski, 27, and Maciej Berbeka, 51, were among four Poles who on Tuesday reached the 8,047-metre (26,401-foot) summit of Broad Peak, located on the border between Pakistan and China, on Tuesday.

The other two climbers who made the ascent of the world's 12th highest peak, Adam Bielecki, 29, and Artur Malek, 33, descended safely to a camp at 7,400 metres before going down further to base camp.

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Football: People 'waiting for Barca to fail' - Messi

MADRID (AFP) - World Player of the Year Lionel Messi believes many people are hoping that Barcelona crash out of the Champions League next week so they can call an end to the Catalans' amazing run of success in recent years.

Barca face a huge task to overturn a 2-0 first-leg deficit against AC Milan at the Camp Nou on Tuesday but Messi said he was hoping that the occasion would lift them out of their recent slump.

"There are a lot of people that are waiting for us to lose so that, like they did last season, they can say this is the end for this Barcelona," he was



quoted as saying by ESPN Deportes.

"It is time to turnaround this situation. It all began in Milan and the return could be the game where we lift ourselves."

It is not just in Europe that Barcelona have struggled of late, though, as back-to-back defeats to Real Madrid have seen them eliminated from the Copa del Rey and their lead at the top of La Liga cut to 11 points.

Baseball: Teixeira will miss 8-10 weeks for Yankees

PHOENIX (AFP) - New York Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira will miss eight to 10 weeks with a right wrist strain suffered with the US World Baseball Classic team, Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday.

Teixeira was hurt Tuesday during batting practice with the American squad.

Eric Hosmer of the Kansas City Royals will replace Teixeira on the US roster.

Teixeira, who turns 33 next month, will miss the entire first month of the major league season and perhaps into mid-May for a Yankees squad already reeling from injuries.

Kevin Youkilis, a possible replacement at first base, is already being pressed into duty

But Messi said both he and his teammates were accustomed to the pressures that come with playing and did not see the need for any sweeping changes in the playing squad.

Messi will also be heavily involved when Argentina get their World Cup qualification campaign back underway in two weeks' time and the 25-year-old is hoping to take another significant step to securing La Albiceleste's place in the finals.

Argentina currently sit atop South American qualifying and host Venezuela at home on March 22 before facing Bolivia at altitude in La Paz four days later.

"First of all we need to think about the game against Venezuela. It is always important to win the home games and then we will go to Bolivia to try and to do the same there," he added.

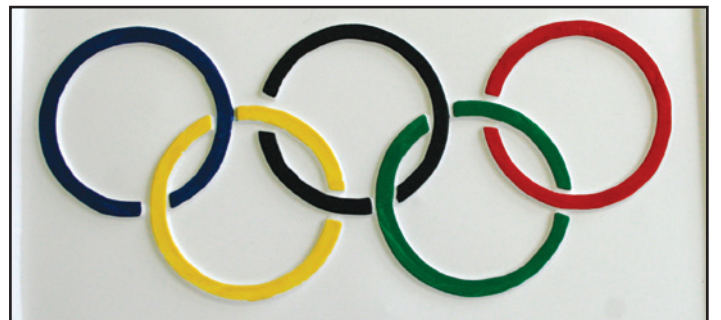
at third base for the 27-time World Series champions to fill in for Alex Rodriguez, who is recovering from surgery on his left hip.

Outfielder Curtis Granderson will also miss at least all of April with a broken arm while starting pitcher Phil Hughes has a back injury.

Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter and closing relief pitcher Mariano Rivera have arrived at training camp coming off of injuries that ended their 2012 seasons early.

Jeter suffered a broken left ankle in the playoffs while Panama right-hander Rivera is back at age 43 after right knee surgery last year and Yankee starting pitcher CC Sabathia is coming off left elbow surgery.

Olympics: Los Angeles to seek 2024 Summer Games



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Two-time Olympic host Los Angeles plans to bid on hosting the 2024 Summer Olympics, according to mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and the city's effort has some major celebrity backers.

The American West Coast metropolis, which hosted the 1932 Games and the 1984 Olympics that were boycotted by the Soviet Union and eastern bloc countries, expressed its interest in a letter to the US Olympic Committee (USOC).

The USOC wrote to the mayors of 35 cities in February asking if they wanted to be considered to host the 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Villaraigosa replied on Monday, the Times reported.

His reply was accompanied by a letter from the Southern California Committee for the

Olympic Games, signed by Disney chief Robert Iger, basketball legend Magic Johnson and Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks, among others.

The host for the 2024 Olympics will be chosen in 2017. The last US city to host the Summer Olympics was Atlanta in 1996. Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics in 2002.

New York applied to host the 2012 Games, but its bid was scuppered when the planned Olympic Stadium site was nixed. Chicago bid for the 2016 Games, but was knocked out in the first round of International Olympic Committee voting.

Villaraigosa, who took office as LA mayor in 2005, will stand down after May 21 elections to choose his successor. He cannot stand for re-election after two terms.

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NBA: LeBron's late layup stretches Heat win streak to 16



MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James scored the game-winning layup with 3.2 seconds remaining Wednesday to give defending NBA champion Miami a 97-96 victory over visiting Orlando, stretching the Heat's win streak to 16 games.

James dribbled to the basket while being guarded, but flipped the ball up and into the basket to boost Miami's overall club-record victory run and provide his team with a 12th consecutive home triumph.

The reigning NBA most valuable player finished with a game-high of 26 points, while Dwyane Wade added 24 points and Chris Bosh contributed 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat.

Miami, with the best record in the Eastern Conference at 45-15, moved within one tri-

umph of matching the longest win streak in the NBA this season, a 17-game run by the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Heat will have a chance to pass the Clippers with triumphs at home on Friday against Philadelphia and Sunday against Indiana.

Orlando, with the NBA's second-worst record at 17-45, were led by 25 points and 21 rebounds from 7-footer Nikola Vucevic, a 22-year-old from Montenegro.

Miami led 55-40 at half-time before the Magic rallied within 77-74 entering the fourth quarter. Orlando opened the fourth quarter with a 12-4 run for an 86-81 lead before the Heat bounced back to leave the game level at 93-93 with 2:22 remaining.

Jameer Nelson's jump shot and a Tobias Harris free throw

gave the Magic a 96-93 lead. James, Wade and Ray Allen missed three-pointers before Bosh hit two free throws after being fouled by Vucevic to pull Miami within 96-95.

Orlando's Al Harrington missed a three-point attempt and James grabbed the rebound, setting up the final Heat possession and his

game-winning shot.

Miami last lost on February 1 at Indiana and the Heat last dropped a home game on January 4 against Chicago.

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